

NSC Briefing  
10 March 1954REACTIONS TO SECRETARY DULLES' 8 MARCH CARACAS SPEECH ON  
COMMUNIST INTERVENTION IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

- I. Ten countries have given varying degrees of support to the resolution introduced in the Secretary's 8 March speech, according to preliminary and somewhat conflicting press and radio reports. Of these, only six seem unequivocally committed to the draft as it stands.
- A. The Dominican Republic and Paraguay apparently gave immediate and unconditional support to the American resolution in the Monday session.
- B. Venezuela, Honduras, Nicaragua and Cuba have been reported favorable with no apparent reservations.
- C. Three other countries, Brazil, Bolivia and Panama have offered support with reservations.
1. Brazil made a supporting speech on Monday but implied it would want certain changes of emphasis.
    - a. Brazilian foreign minister said there must be a distinction between nationalism and Communism, and that the Rio Treaty on hemisphere defense should receive greater emphasis.
  2. Bolivia offered support but implied that positive economic measures should be considered the key to fighting Communism.
  3. Panama said it would seek an amendment asking

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a ban on racial discrimination as a primary weapon against Communism.

- D. El Salvador is reported favorable, but gave no indication whether it still intends to introduce its own resolution.
- E. Mexico apparently took an equivocal stand asking two amendments to:
  - 1. to make the resolution include "all totalitarian forces"
  - 2. to distinguish between native Communism and the "international, Russian kind."
- F. There have been no reports of outright hostility except for Guatemala.
  - 1. The Guatemalan delegate yawned ostentatiously during Dulles' speech and then asked heckling questions.
  - 2. The Guatemalan foreign minister later walked out on a pro-American speech by Dominican Republic.

II. Press reports do not indicate whether Uruguay and El Salvador will now refrain from introducing their competing resolutions, both of which stress objectives somewhat at variance with Washington's.

- A. The Uruguayan resolution would withhold recognition from any government brought to power by outside forces and from any government deemed deficient

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in democratic institutions or procedures.

- B. The Salvadoran resolution has not been revealed but is believed to stress economic and military methods of combatting communism.
- C. The announced Dominican resolution will not present any competition since its is more extreme than Washington's and has gained no support.

III. Press comment from Latin American capitals is incomplete and mixed.

- A. Only four countries, Argentina, Uruguay, Mexico and Guatemala are represented so far.

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- 1. Argentine comment was described by the American embassy as "encouraging" but
  - a. stressed the need distinguish between domestic and international Communism.
  - b. The important Democracia says the Cominform should be fought but not Communism as an idea on the Soviet nation with which many Western countries maintain friendly relations.
  - c. stressed the need to avoid intervention.
  - d. emphasized relations between Communism and economic conditions.
- 2. In Uruguay two papers took a friendly attitude.
  - a. Three others were critical.
    - 1. stressed distinction between domestic and international Communism.

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2. implied United States "obsessed" with Communism.
3. stated Uruguay's broader "anti-totalitarian" view should get more attention.
3. Mexican papers all stressed non intervention.
  - a. They said resolution should stress positive pro-democratic measures rather than negative anti-Communist ones.
4. Guatemalan comment varied.
  - a. The pro-government press charged Dulles was demanding "unrestricted freedom for monopolistic investments."
  - b. The independent Prensa Libre pointed out that the US resolution would have no immediate application unless the Communists tried to seize power openly.
  - c. The reactionary, anti-Communist La Hora warned that the US would use "any means" to block the Communist threat, and warned Guatemalans to take care "if you don't want to be another Korea, destroyed by American bombs."

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